

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /057 W
-----260607Z 046913 /17

R 251045Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3349
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, BG
SUBJECT: GENERAL ZIA REPORTEDLY MEETS WITH POLITICIANS

REF: 76 DACCA 6302

1. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT ZIA CALLED A MEETING JANUARY 23 OF POLITICIANS REPRESENTING A CROSS-SECTION OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. DURING THE MEETING, A FEW POLITICIANS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE PEOPLE NOW WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF GENERAL ELECTIONS, CONSIDERING THAT THE TURN-OUT FOR SOME FO THE UNION PARISHAD ELECTIONS HAD, IN THEIR ESTIMATES, EXCEEDED NINETY PERCENT OF THOSE REGISTERED TO VOTE. ZIA REPORTEDLY RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION WITHOUT COMMENT. LATER, SEVERAL OF THE PRO-PEKING PARTY MEMBERS ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE FOR A NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON THE ISSUE OF PARLIMENTARY ELECTIONS.

2. THE MEETING HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED IN THE MAJOR PRESS, ALTHOUGH NAYAJUG, THE UNITED PEOPLES' PARTY WEEKLY, COMMENTED BEFORE THE MEETING THAT REPRESENTATIVES

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FROM 9 POLITICAL PARTIES INCLUDING THOSE OF THE NATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND RESISTANCE COMMITTEE (REFTEL) WOULD ATTEND. PROMINENT LEADERS PLANNING TO ATTEND INCLUDED ATAUR RAHMAN KHAN, JATIYO LEAGUE; KAZI ZAFAR AHMED, UPP; MOHAMMAD TOAHA, SAMMYABADI DAL; MIZANUR RAHMAN CHOUDHURY, AWAMI LEAGUE; M.A. AWAL, JSD; AND KHAN A. SABUR, MUSLIM LEAGUE. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT KHAN SABUR EVENTUALLY

DECLINED TO ATTEND ON THE BASIS OF ILL HEALTH.)

3. COMMENT: WHY THE MEETING HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED IS UNCLEAR. IT IS LIKELY THAT ZIA WAS NOT SURPRISED TO HEAR FROM THE POLITICIANS YET ANOTHER CALL FOR ELECTION. NINETY PERCENT PARTICIPATION IN THE PARISHAD ELECTIONS, AS CLAIMED IN THE MEETING, MAY HAVE OCCURRED IN SOME PLACES BUT WE UNDERSTAND SEVENTY PERCENT IS MORE REPRESENTATIVE. IT SEEMS THAT NO MEMBER OF MUSHTAQUE'S DEMOCRATIC LEAGUE ATTENDED.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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TAGS: PINS, BG, (RAHMAN, ZIAUR)
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